



DIRECTORATE OF
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Korea: The "spy ship" North Korea captured probably was a South Korean boat lost on a close-in mission.
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Korea: [The "spy ship" displayed yesterday by the North Koreans at Panmunjom probably is the South Korean boat lost on 22 June during a close-in mission off the west coast of North Korea.]

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[Redacted]

The South Korean force, consisting of 15 men in three small motor boats, was apparently trying to penetrate Pupo harbor. The lead boat was either captured or sunk while the other two returned unharmed to the South.]

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[The mission may have been an outgrowth of interservice rivalry: the navy, in this instance, seeking to win credit by carrying out a mission against the North. The assortment of equipment the North Koreans claim to have found on the boat also suggests that the boats may have been on an armed harassment mission.]

[The incident came at a particularly good time for Pyongyang, now at the height of a propaganda campaign against the US and South Korea coinciding with the anniversary of the start of the Korean war. The North Koreans have linked the incident to that of the Pueblo to bolster their charges of US - South Korean aggression.]

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